

## California State Journal of Medicine.

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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Committee on Arrangements announces that the meetings of the State Society at Sacramento, April 19th, 20th and 21st, 1910, **ANNUAL MEETING.** will be held in the Elks' Building, which is located conveniently near the Hotel Sacramento. The Hotel Sacramento is a new, reinforced concrete building, in every way first-class, and has made a satisfactory rate on the American plan for our members who attend the meeting. The details in regard to the entertainment of members and their families have not yet been concluded, but it is understood that the medical profession of Sacramento are planning to make the visit of the Society to that city a memorable one, as well for the entertainment provided as for the scientific work done. Make your plans right now to attend the meeting and do not allow anything to interfere with those plans when they are made. You can not afford *not* to attend these meetings; it is worth a month's income just to meet so many fellow practitioners and to learn that they are such nice people to know, and not just deadly rivals. Get out of the rut; go to the annual meeting; meet several hundred of your fellow physicians; learn something new; teach something that you have found out and that others ought to know. Go to the meeting even if at some sacrifice.

In the State Society, in many, if not all County Societies, in every sort and form of organization of men, you will hear the same sort of talk; **RING** that things are run by a "ring," a **TALK.** "clique," a "machine." And it is perfectly true; all organizations of men are always managed and conducted—or "run"—by a few men who will give their time and their energy to the necessary work; probably very few of those who do the work would not be glad to be quit of it, if someone else would step forward and relieve them. In the main, all such work is done for the good of the society; when a man takes up the burden for purely selfish purposes, it is soon evident; results are not obtained; the society does not improve; for the work is not unselfish. On the other hand, and in the vast majority of cases, the work is unselfishly done and not for any personal reason; therefore, the society benefits; results are obtained; progress, and not retrogression, is assured. The man who undertakes to "run" things for himself is eliminated every time, just as sure as fate. You see that everywhere; in city politics, where the boss sooner or later is overthrown or convicted. Human nature is complex and all people, thank the Lord, do not like the same things. Some men like and are fitted for executive work; they are willing to give their time to it; is that any reason why the men who do not like it and are not fitted for it should say harsh things about them? All this talk about a "ring" is both true and absurd; it is true that a few men will always do most of the work; it is utterly absurd to deduce from that fact that they are doing so for purely selfish motives or for anything less honorable than the good of the society. A few men—the Council—have "run" the State Society for some eight years, with but very few changes in the personnel of that body. And what is the result? They have increased the Society until, at the end of December, 1909, there were 1954 names on the roll; the largest membership to date. They have gone out looking for ways in which to be useful to the members; they have given hours to that work; they have recently formulated a plan for medical defense which is working satisfactorily. Do you like things to be "run" that way, or not? A few men form the House of Delegates; can you recall an instance when that body has not worked for the good of the Society?

When the American Medical Association undertook the publication of a medical directory that should be accurate—and not include within it the name of any old **THE A. M. A. quack** who would subscribe for the **DIRECTORY.** book—it did a great good for the medical profession of this country. Not the least important, and by far the most valuable part of the work of getting out this directory, was the compilation of reliable data in the A. M. A. office. From the data so gathered it is now possible to check up and prove the statements as to graduation,

license, etc., which any individual physician may make. The result is a higher degree of accuracy than has ever been secured in a similar work. It should receive the hearty support of every physician in order that the work may be improved from year to year, become more and more accurate in the matter of addresses, and thus become more useful to everyone. It is a subject for congratulation that the medical profession has come into its own in this one particular, and that it is no longer at the mercy of the whim or the avarice of a commercial publisher. Give the American Medical Directory your hearty support.

The many friends of Dr. Rupert Blue will be glad to know that he has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine of London in recognition of his remarkable work in fighting plague in San Francisco. This is one of the highest tributes which could be paid him and its bestowal reflects great credit not only on Dr. Rupert Blue, but on the service which he represents as well. In the past year there has not been a case of rat plague in San Francisco but the infection among ground squirrels in Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties has assumed such vast proportions that its eradication will probably be a labor of years. Thus far about 60,000 squirrels have been examined at the Federal Laboratory and over 300 have been found to be positive for plague. Just how far-reaching this epizootic will prove to be is difficult to say. Dr. George W. McCoy, who is in charge of suppressive measures during Dr. Blue's absence abroad, and Dr. W. C. Rucker, in command of the field work, are endeavoring to create a plague free zone around Oakland and Berkeley, with the object of preventing the infection from ground squirrels of the rats and other rodents of these cities. That such a danger exists is evidenced by the discovery of a plague infected woodrat in Alameda county.

During the past year three human cases of plague were reported, all being undoubtedly of ground squirrel origin. It is significant that no question has been raised as to the existence of plague among ground squirrels; the great educational campaign has certainly borne fruit for a few years ago such a diagnosis would have been assailed on every conceivable ground.

The Public Health Commission of the State Society is, as all of our members know, one of the most active bodies or committees connected with the Society. Since its very inception this commission has done a good deal of the very best, high grade work. It is now at work upon a plan to consolidate into one body a number of various committees whose work is more or less along the lines of conservation of the public health. At the coming meeting of the State Society, at Sacramento this April, the Com-

mission will report upon this and its report should be of great interest. There are in the state a number of societies, as the Tuberculosis Society, the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases, the Public Health Officers' Association, etc., all doing work that directly relates to public health matters. If these could be brought together on Monday, April 18th, 1910 (the day before the meeting of the State Society) at Sacramento, doubtless it would be found that they had many things in common and some sort of consolidation could be effected. All of these various movements are in the right direction and they are all doing good; but if some energy could be saved and the work of all increased by consolidation, it would assuredly seem to be a good thing. Dr. F. C. E. Mattison, Chairman of the Commission, is now trying to arrange for a meeting at the time mentioned and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of those interested in the various societies and committees whose work is along public health lines. If you are in any way connected with any of these societies, be sure and attend the general meeting at Sacramento on Monday, April 18th; it will be well worth your while.

At the last session of the American Medical Association, a resolution was introduced and passed,

requesting all County Medical Societies to hold at least one open or public meeting each year. Such meetings will be of the very greatest benefit; the people generally do not know what medical societies are trying to do; they do not understand our present day efforts toward the betterment of public health matters; they are at sea as to the real reason for proper medical laws and for the compulsory vaccination of children. Equally are they in the dark as to the preventableness and curability of tuberculosis, and in a hundred ways they need enlightenment on matters medical, sanitary and hygienic. Therefore the holding of open or public meetings at least once a year, or oftener if possible, is strongly recommended to all County Medical Societies. Some of the County Medical Societies in California have been holding such meetings from time to time, and they have been found to be of great interest to layman and physician alike. A very profitable meeting could be held with the school board and the school teachers of the community, at which meeting school hygiene and the examination of school children could be discussed with much benefit to all concerned. The "backward child" from the standpoint of the school teacher, and then from the standpoint of the physician who can interpret much of this backwardness to physical defects and explain them and the necessity for their removal, would, in itself, make a profitable evening's program. Our State Society has urged this line of activity upon County Medical Societies for some years and it is therefore a matter of no small satisfaction to see that the importance of the work is not ignored by the American Medical Association. Do not let the present year end without having at least one such meeting in your county.